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the deaf person has any guarantee that the interpreter who has been obtained is truly qualified. If the person who is deaf or hard of hearing discovers that the interpreter has not adequately conveyed the information properly, that person has the right to hold the state accountable for having been denied equal access to state government based on his or her disability. Under AM2306, the state and the person who is deaf or hard of hearing will have a more certain guarantee that the interpreter is qualified prior to the exchange between the state and the person, rather than wait until after the fact. Many times a well-meaning person, who has some knowledge of sign language, will offer to interpret, and later the person who is deaf or hard of hearing discovers, much to his or her chagrin, that the interpreter misses some key information or was unable to adequately translate the information. This amendment will avoid those kinds of unintentional violations of the ADA, not to mention the civil rights of the person who is accused of a crime. The amendment is very...very no...very narrow in its application. It applies only to state agencies and local law enforcement officials. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may still be subject to interpreters in other situations who are not fully qualified. Under the ADA, the person who...persons who are deaf or hard of hearing have the opportunity to sue on the basis of being unfairly discriminated against because of their disability. I would urge you to support the...the bill...or the amendment, and would ask for you to ask me any questions you might want. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker, members, I thank you for bringing this, Senator Suttle. I did have a question about, on the first page, about the intent of the Legislature that by September 1, 2002, the commission shall license and evaluate. I just wondered if that is a possible task at this point or...not...not that it's...not that it's a big issue with me, but I...is that fairly aggressive at this point? Is that practical, so forth?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Suttle, would you respond?